



Consul General Beth Payne releasing a commemorative souvenir at the Chapchar Kut festival at Aizawl, Mizoram.



BULLETIN - APRIL 2011

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April 22
Good Friday

Your Date With U.S. History

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

April 24, 1800, marks the establishment of the magnificent institution known as the United States Library of Congress. In the center of Washington, D.C., just across the street from the Capitol Building, stands this great library, with soaring arches, mosaic ceilings, and over 500 miles of bookshelves, filled with publications from around the world. The Library of Congress was intended to be a reference library for the fledgling Congress, containing "such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress" as it enacted laws for the new nation. The library was established with a budget of \$5,000 and housed in the new Capitol Building. However, in August 1814, invading British troops set fire to the Capitol Building, burning and pillaging the contents of the small library.



Within a month of the destruction of the library, retired President Thomas Jefferson offered his personal library, considered to be one of the finest in the country, as a replacement. Jefferson's collection included books in foreign languages and volumes of philosophy, science, literature, and other topics not normally viewed as part of a legislative library. In January 1815, Congress accepted Jefferson's offer, appropriating \$23,950 for the 6,487 books, which became the foundation of what is, today, one of the world's greatest libraries.

In the two centuries since the library's establishment, the collection, now housed in three buildings across the street from the Capitol, has grown to include more than 17 million books, as well as 95 million maps, manuscripts, photographs, films, audio and video recordings, prints and drawings, and other special collections, stored in over 500 miles of shelves. Anyone over high-school age (18) may use the library.

[Source: <http://www.america.gov>]

EDWARD MURROW



On a cool September evening somewhere in America in 1940, a family gathers around a vacuum-tube radio. A distinct and serious voice says: "This ... is London." And so begins a riveting first-hand account of the infamous "London Blitz," the wholesale bombing of that city by the German air force in World War II. Behind the microphone sits a young journalist, Edward R. Murrow. With this and other wartime broadcasts, Murrow would almost single-handedly create the concept of "broadcast journalism."

Born on April 25, 1908, in Polecat Creek, North Carolina, Murrow was raised in a family of farmers. In 1937, the Columbia Broadcasting Company (CBS) sent Murrow to Europe to monitor the increasing tension on the European continent. Murrow assembled a cadre of qualified reporters -- a group forever known as "Murrow's Boys" to cover the events. When World War II broke out in 1939, Murrow and his "boys" were ready to report on the biggest story the world had known.

[www.facebook.com/
AmericanCenter.Kolkata](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanCenter.Kolkata)

NEW!
**American Center
Kolkata steps into
Social Media.
Details inside.**

The American Center, 38A Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata 700 071
Telephone: 3984-6300; Fax: 2288-1616; E-Mail: kolkatapas@state.gov
Web site: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov>
Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm; Monday - Friday
The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

YOUR TURN

The Bulletin wants to hear from you ... your thoughts, your opinions, your feedback. Write in with



- a report of an American Center event you attended
- your experiences in cross-cultural encounters
- a photo that brings out the joys and sorrows of human life
- a human interest anecdote.

Only email submissions will be considered for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right of submission selection, editing and publication.

Send your submissions by email to kolkatapas@state.gov by the 10th of each month.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Ronnie Ghose, a scholar of the Offjazz Dance Academy of Nice, France; and Mitul Sengupta, a scholar of the Kalakriti Sanskriti Foundation, have this to say on the Paul Taylor 2 dance program in Kolkata: *"The evening showcased the immaculate methodology of Mr. Taylor's work which the world fondly refers to as the Taylor Technique. The company ably proved that modern contemporary dance requires serious training in classical ballet, classical jazz dance, and other technique-oriented movement art, putting them together to create a unique language of one's philosophy of expression, which was highly evident in Taylor 2's work."*



The photograph shows PTDC2 in action.

American Documentary Showcase

Kolkata: March 31 - April 5



Some of the best contemporary and recent American documentary films will be showcased at different venues including the American Center. American documentary filmmaker Tom Shephard and *Documentary Magazine* Editor Tom White will be in town during that time to conduct workshops at NSHM Knowledge Campus and interact with students at SRFTI.

Contact: 3984-6325 or ghoshsx@state.gov

An Evening of American Theater

Kolkata: April 8, 7 p.m.

Stagecraft presents *Slice of Life III* - an evening of American theater - directed by Sudeshna Banerjee and Rohit Pombra. Selections include *So Please Be Kind* by Frank Gilroy, *Lost* by Mary Louise Wilson, and *And Today A Little Extra* by Michael Kassin. Invitation cards are available at the American Center reception desk.



Contact: 3984-6324 or mullicksx@state.gov

Spelling Bee

Siliguri/Guwahati: April 8, May 2



The American Library will continue the American tradition of Spelling Bee by organizing spelling competitions at Siliguri on April 8, and at Guwahati on May 2. Students of schools at these cities will participate in the events.

Contact: 3984-6336 or ghoshdx@state.gov

Women's Empowerment

Kolkata: April 12, 5 p.m.

American Center, in association with Aspen Institute India, will present "Our Voice, Our Journey," a program on women empowerment.



Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov

All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.

Earth Day

Kolkata: April 19



American Center Kolkata, in association with the World Wildlife Fund, will conduct an outdoor competition among school students on producing utility products from everyday waste materials.

Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov

Film Show:
JURASSIC PARK
(127 mins)
April 19, 2.30 p.m.: Kolkata

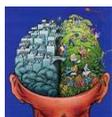


Steven Spielberg directs this classic motion picture starring Sam Neill, Laura Dern, and Jeff Goldblum. John Hammond has invited four individuals, plus his two grandchildren, to join him at Jurassic Park, an island full of living dinosaurs. But will everything go according to plan? Especially when one of the park's own workers attempts to steal the dinosaurs' embryos, and shuts down the electricity in the process. It's now a race for survival with everyone scattered all over the island.

Contact: 3984-6398 or choudhuryr@state.gov

Alumni Workshop

Puri: April 29-30



American Center Kolkata, and the U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, will present an alumni workshop "Understand your Personality Type and Improve your Interpersonal Skills and Effectiveness through MBTI - Myers Briggs Type Indicator psychometric assessment." Registrations are invited.

Contact: 3984-6392 or dassx@state.gov

GLOBE Teacher Training Workshop

Guwahati: April 30 - May 3

The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program is a worldwide hands-on, primary and secondary school-based science and education program. The U.S. Embassy supports and sponsors GLOBE's vision to organize training for school teachers in the study and research of the dynamics of Earth's environment. This year the teacher training workshop will take place in Guwahati and 30 teachers will take part.



Contact: 3984-6325 or ghoshsx@state.gov

**FOCUS:****JARROD HUFFMAN, STUDENT OF EDUCATION**

Jarrold Huffman, a Fulbright student researcher from the US Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, based at Jadavpur University, reflects on his Kolkata sojourn as follows: "Kolkata is a shock to the senses. It is bright, colorful, loud and noisy. Its markets are filled with the smells of fried food, jasmine, and fruit. A trip in the metro will bring you in physical contact with dozens of people. When you finally have to eat, you will be shocked by Kolkata's flavorful, deliciously spicy food. None of the senses are immune. But as you find yourself drowning in a sea of sensory overload it is only a matter of time before you will be saved by the warmth of one of its many inhabitants. It is for these reasons I had to return.



Now that I have been here for sometime, I am struck by the continually recurring comment I hear in response to my opinions about Bangla poetry, Bengali food, Kolkata in general etc. I am often stopped on the street or asked in a store, "From which country have you come, how long are you staying, what work do you do?"--which are not surprising questions at all. Then I am asked "How do you like Kolkata, how do you like the food, how do you like studying Bangla?"--which is also not surprising. But when I say, "Amar Kolkata khub bhalo lage, Bangali khabar bhalobashi, and Bangla ekta mishti bhasha" in response I almost universally hear, "Thank you". Its as if a personal compliment has been paid."

Above: Jarrold talks to a local artist in Bishnupur, West Bengal, about his work.

American Center's launches its SMS service:

Dial US4U at 9243000111

In keeping with the times, we are delighted to announce the introduction of a new service-- *Tunespray*. The best feature of this service is SMS notification to you about our upcoming programs. Apart from standard SMS notifications, this feature comes with some other useful tools:



- SMS your participation in American Center events.
- Give us feedback on events or policies.
- Interact live with us regarding events through Text 2 Poll and Message Boards.
- Voice your opinion through SMS.

To avail yourself of information on American Library membership, reference services, and programs, type: "US4U<space>LIBRARY 9243000111".

American Center launches its Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/AmericanCenter.Kolkata

In an age of social media, the American Center is delighted to announce the launch of its Facebook Page. This Page is designed not only to promote upcoming events, programs, interactive sessions, and releases of new books and articles at the American Center, but also to get feedback from our audiences through their active participation in online conversations and opinion polls.

To avail yourself of information about upcoming events or to interact with us, please visit our Facebook Page at the above-mentioned link and "Like" us to get yourself added to our page.

EARTHDAY

April marks the commemoration of Earth Day that started way back in 1970. The origins of this commemoration can be traced to Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. senator from Wisconsin and a longtime conservationist, who understood that the methods developed for use in the anti-war protest could succeed in other areas as well. "At the time," Nelson later wrote, "there was a great deal of turmoil on the college campuses over the Vietnam War. Protests, called anti-war teach-ins, were being widely held on campuses across the nation.... It suddenly occurred to me, why not have a nationwide teach-in on the environment? That was the origin of Earth Day."



Nelson returned to Washington and began promoting Earth Day to state governors, mayors of big cities, editors of college newspapers and, importantly, to *Scholastic Magazine*, which is circulated in U.S. elementary and secondary schools. In September 1969, Nelson formally announced that there would be a "national environmental teach-in" sometime in spring 1970. "The response was dramatic," recalled Nelson.

"An estimated 20 million people participated in peaceful demonstrations all across the country. Ten thousand grade schools and high schools, two thousand colleges, and one thousand communities were involved.... That was the remarkable thing that became Earth Day."

Earth Day celebrates its 41st anniversary this April. The American Center is organizing a series of programs to commemorate Earth Day 2011, details of which are included in this issue of the bulletin.

[Source: <http://www.america.gov>]

MARCH IN PICTURES



Students participate in Green Quiz 2011 organized by the American Library at the Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management, Kolkata.



Consul General Beth Payne speaks at an International Women's Day program at the ICFAI Business School, Kolkata.



Salsero Aditya Upadhyya conducts a Salsa workshop at the American Center.



Fulbright Scholar Robin Sukhadia presents a tabla performance at the American Center, Kolkata.